



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

14 Aug 2003

Volume I Issue 24

### Iraqis and Soldiers Waging War on Crime

**Story and Photo by Spc. Kristopher Joseph  
18<sup>th</sup> MP**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi Police officers from the Al Quanaah Police Station in downtown Baghdad arrested seven members of a Baghdad crime family.

The arrests came after an Iraqi businessman made a complaint to the police station that his 6-year-old son had been kidnapped and held for \$80,000 ransom.

Commissioner Adnan Abud Taha and Capt. Hazim Sahlah Abid, who work in high crimes and investigation, took the case head on. MP investigator Sgt. Emmanuel Gonzales, 812th Military Police Co., joined the case.

The location of the kidnapping and the high ransom led them to believe it was the Tiswahim family. During the regime, kidnapping was a very rare crime because many businessmen had Ba'ath Party ties which shielded them from many crimes. Without the regime, the Tiswahim preyed on Baghdad's business community with kidnapping, extortion and murder.

Under the advice of Gonzales, Taha and Abid began background investigations on the victim's family to find clues to the case. It turned out that the crime family spread rumors that the victim's father had looted a bank and thereby justified the kidnapping and ransom. When word got to the Tiswahim that the father did not have the ransom amount and was going to sell his business, they quickly lowered their ransom to \$20,000 and eventually lowered it to whatever amount the father could afford.

A break in the case came when the uncle of Ali Salem was arrested for robbery. While he was in prison, a woman came to visit him. Taha and Abid questioned her and she confirmed that it was indeed the Tiswahim family that had committed the kidnapping. She also told them about another 11-year-old boy that had been kidnapped in the same area as the 6-year-old.

Taha and Abid spent long hours and even used their days off patrolling and conducting surveillance in the suspected area. Dedicated to the case, Abid spent days in the father's house, providing security and waiting for calls from the criminals even after he had learned his wife had a miscarriage.

Feeling the Iraqi police were getting close to cracking the case, the kidnappers returned the 6-year-old and the 11-year-old to their fathers. Later, a 17-year-old male was released to another family for 3.5 million Iraqi dinars. This release provided key clues because the 17-year-old was able to see through his blindfold and identify to the police the area where he was held captive. The male later reported that the kidnappers held him without food or water, and even shocked him with electricity. He



**Capt. Hazim Abid (left) and Commissioner Adnan Taha (right), standing with a 6-year-old boy that was kidnapped by the Tiswahim crime family. Abid and Taha's dedication to the case led to the release of the boy and the takedown of seven members of the crime family including leader Ali Salem.**

also reported that he witnessed Ali Salem commit homicide.

The close cooperation of the Iraqi Police and the MP at Al Quanaah led to discovering the location of the kidnappers. Taha, Abid and Gonzales developed a plan to raid the suspected house. Taha and Abid recruited five other Iraqi Police Service officers who would all enter the house with them while Gonzales provided MP teams for perimeter security of the cordoned area.

The raid was a success. Police captured seven members of the family and their leader Ali Salem. They also confiscated an AK-47 assault rifle and 3.1 million Iraqi dinars in the house. All six members gave full confessions for the kidnappings. Some of them are also being held for murder.

Abid said they were just doing their best to provide good security for their people.

"They did a fantastic job," said Gonzales. "They saw the need to solve this case, and they took the initiative."

## NEWS

**Food Warehouses Looted at Liberian Port**  
MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Civilians and gunmen pillaged food warehouses at Monrovia's rebel-held port Wednesday, and relief workers said they could not start the flow of aid from ships waiting just off shore until peacekeepers step in and assure order. After the resignation this week of former President Charles Taylor, insurgents have promised to pull back from Monrovia's capital at noon Thursday, handing the vital port to a Nigerian-led peacekeeping force.

**Iraq Begins Pumping Crude Oil to Turkey**  
ANKARA, Turkey (AP) - Iraq began pumping fresh crude oil Wednesday through a pipeline to Turkey's Mediterranean coast for the first time since the war, a Turkish oil official said. The reopening of the pipeline marks a key milestone in the bid to rebuild Iraq's vital oil industry, opening up the way for crude from the country's large northern fields to reach the market.

### **British Man Charged in Missile-Sale Case**

NEWARK, N.J.(AP) - A suspected arms dealer was arraigned Wednesday on federal charges that he allegedly tried to sell shoulder-fired missiles to an undercover agent posing as a Muslim terrorist bent on shooting down an airliner. Hemet Lakhani, 68, a Briton described as a "significant international arms dealer," was ordered held without bail pending a custody hearing Monday. He is charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to terrorists and acting as an arms broker without a license.

### **Chaplain's thought for the day:** *General Patton*

During World War II, a military governor met with General George Patton in Sicily. When he praised Patton highly for his courage and bravery, the general replied, "Sir, I am not a brave man ... The truth is, I am an utter craven coward. I have never been within the sound of gunshot or in sight of battle in my whole life that I wasn't so scared that I had sweat in the palms of my hands." Years later, when Patton's autobiography was published, it contained this significant statement by the general: "I learned very early in my life never to take counsel of my fears."

-- Source unknown

God is our source of strength a very present help in time of trouble. Call upon him and he will answer.

## SPORTS

**201 Nations Invited to 2004 Summer Games**  
LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) - Exactly a year before the opening ceremony, Iraq and Afghanistan were among the record 201 countries invited Wednesday to compete in the Athens Olympics. With concerns lingering over whether Athens will be ready, IOC president Jacques Rogge and organizing chief Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki marked the one-year countdown by sending out official invitations to the world's national Olympic committees.

### *A Smart Tip from 1AD Safety*

## Electrical Hazards

**Electrical hazards will cause an accident.**

- ✓ Check all electrical equipment for damage to cords, and receptacles.
- ✓ Use Power Strips and not extension cords – Power strips have a fuse or circuit breaker which prevents electrical surges and overloads.
- ✓ Do not twist, bend or walk on electrical cords – the wires and insulation inside the covering can break causing the current to arc which could result in a fire.
- ✓ Only qualified electricians will work on the wiring systems.

### *Oddly Enough*

#### **Nader Hit With Pie During Calif. Event**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Former Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader was hit with a pie as he endorsed party member Peter Camejo for California governor. The show of political support at the Green Party's San Francisco headquarters took an unscripted turn Tuesday when a prankster burst into the room and slammed a cream pie into Nader's face. The culprit fled through a side door.